Tender system for bookstalls at Railway stations

2187. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Railways including the South Eastern Railway vide their letter No. PR/ GL/181 Pt-IV dated 23rd April, 1969 had suggested that bookstalls at the stations be awarded through tender system for better competition and more and more earnings; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the above suggestion by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) South Eastern Railway has advised that records are not available containing such proposal. No other Zonal Railway has also sent proposal for awarding bookstall contract through tender system.

(b) Does not arise.

Ticketless Rail travel in Andhra Pradesh

2188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any drive has been undertaken by the Railways to reduce tecketless travel in Andhra Pradesh, in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the fines levied on ticketless travellers;

(d) whether the Railways propose to intensify such raids and drive, to totally reduce ticketless travel in that State; and

(e) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Intensive drives are regularly conducted by Commercial & Vigilance departments against ticketless/irregular travel on the Railways. These drives include Ambush checks, special checks over vulnerable

sections, 96-hour drives, etc. Railway Magistrates and Police are also involved from time to time. State-wise figures are not maintained. However, during the drives conducted during the year 2001-2002 (upto December, 2001), an amount of Rs. 13.79 crores was realised from ticketless travellers on South Central Railway which is covering most part of Andhra Pradesh area.

(d) and (e) Ticket checking on the Railways is a continuous activity and monitored properly at various levels.

Rail bridge between Rajamundry and Kovvur

2189. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have considered a proposal to build a third rail bridge across the River Godavari, between Rajamundry and Kovvur;

(b) if so, details of this proposal;

(c) whether any long term planning is being done by the Railways in such matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The works are planned keeping in view the future traffic prospects as per availability of resources.

Railway city booking agencies in Chhattisgarh

†2190. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway city booking agencies in Chhattisgarh;

(b) at which places these are located;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.